

The best of rural Kent

at the two-day
Edenbridge and Oxted
Show

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The life of a volunteer
helping wildlife
research on a former
coconut plantation
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Save 10% OFF EVERYTHING ON SUNDAYS ONLY 12PM TO 5PM

ALLEN ROO

10% OFF ALL ITEMS

ANT & POLYMER HOUSE

Save 10% OFF EVERYTHING ON SUNDAYS ONLY 12PM TO 5PM

President objected youth buse

OWING years of
and violent at-
from youths, a
k Wood resident
has "come to
of her tether"

a Lewis, 37, and
uly were victims
attacks this week.
st on Tuesday
bricks were
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rained over the
f their house in
Road.

Lewis, who has
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f for over three

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and on one occa-
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added the five
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attacks had been
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Lewis, who is a
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n Tonbridge said:
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ES attempted to
into Bakers Oven
dock Wood by re-
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incident hap-
between 4pm on
ay and 4am on
eday, in the Com-
al Road bakery.



PROTEST: Making their views felt outside Ashford Police Station were these protesters who want to save the Horsmonden Horse Fair. From the left are Gratton Puxton, Eli Frankham, Jake Bowers and Edwin Frankham

Courier photo 127 284/25

Gipsies will continue with horse fair despite cancellation

Parade will go ahead

By Kate Murrell

VILLAGERS in Horsmonden are resigned to an influx of gipsies and travellers this month despite the annual horse fair being cancelled.

Although the parish council has refused to allow the traditional fair to be held on the green, the gipsies are to go ahead with a parade of up to 200 people through the village.

Joan Queally, who works at Crowhurst Stores, said: "I have no problem with the parade." Villager David Tuck added: "I don't mind as long as they clear up afterwards."

However, some residents do not share the same view.

The Courier was also told by one villager "it is potential for trouble", and another said there was "enormous amount of

mess left after the fair". The parade is planned for Sunday September 10 as an alternative to the horse fair.

On Tuesday representatives from the Gypsy Council, the Romany Rights Association and the borough council met police to discuss the event.

Great step forward

Gratton Puxton, chairman of the Gypsy Council, said: "This is a great step forward and highlights the strong feelings Romany families in the community have to save the fair."

Among the topics discussed were the number of people taking part in the parade, between 100 and 200, the route and placards.

The parade is due to start at 12 noon in Branchley Road, led by a horse-drawn car-

riage, and go through the village and around the green.

Romany families are planning to revive the fair next year on land not owned by the parish council and would ultimately like to buy land for a smaller fair without stalls.

Mr Puxton added: "Our next steps are to arrange off-street parking and also a public meeting after the parade, where consultation with the parish council can take place."

Neil Robins, chairman of the parish council, said the parade was a police matter and he had "no real comment to make".

Romany Suzanna Hersey, 57, from Branchley Road, said: "The closure of the fair is sickening."

"We don't want rioting, we just want to keep the campaign within the law. What else can we do to show how we all feel other than parade?"

NEXT WEEK'S COURIER: 20 READERS CAN DINE OUT ON US AT FR